that Government will decide as to how the funds should be invested;

(c) whether Government will amend the rules in conformity with the Act; and

(d) when will Government sanction $12^{1/2}$ per cent interest for PF pension corpus?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Under Sector 5(1A) of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellanenous Provisions Act, 1952, the Fund vests in and is administered by the Central Board of Trustees, EPF Clause 6 of Scheduled II of the Act empowers the Central Government to issue directions or laydown conditions for investment of PF moneys. The rules framed by the Central Government about investment of PF money are already in accordance with the provisions of the Act and as such the question of amending the rules in this regard does not arise.

(d) The proposal to enhance the rate of interest on the Pension Fund deposited in the public account has not been found acceptable by the Government.

**Closure of Mills and Factories**

2396. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many mills and factories category-wise i.e. large, medium and small are closed or have been declared sick on 31st August, 1998;

(b) how many workers and staff are rendered unemployed as a result of closure; and

(c) how many workers and staff have become idle or temporarily out of employment due to closure of sickness?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Total number of units which have been closed upto 31st August, 1998 and the total number of workers affected as a result of this since, 1995 is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below). Category-wise information on closure/ sickness of large, medium & small industries is not being maintained separately.

**Statement**

*Number of Permanent Closures and Workers Affected thereby in Manufacturing Industry during the year 1995 to 1998 (Jan. to Aug.)*

| Year | Industry | No. of Units | Workers affected |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995 | Manufacturing | 155 | 13482 |
| | Others | 28 | 1013 |
| | Total | 183 | 14495 |
| 1996 | Manufacturing | 191 | 10831 |
| | Others | 13 | 559 |
| | Total | 204 | 11390 |
| 1997 | Manufacturing | 136 | 12344 |
| | Others | 18 | 600 |
| | Total | 154 | 12944 |
| 1998(P) | Manufacturing | 57 | 2436 |
| | Others | 5 | 39 |
| | Total | 62 | 2475 |

P = Provisional

SOURCE : Labour Bureau, Shimla